The GE 404 is one of the most modern engines of this class. The variant proposed to be used will have the highest thrust and it is this engine which is being used in the latest fighters under development abroad. Discussions were conducted with a number of firms in UK, West Germany and France and agreements are being arrived at for systems or in areas where the indigenous base needs strengthening. There has been no decision at any time that we would be choosing a West German Consultancy. Our options are based on meeting our own requirements.

Purchase of self-propelled artillery guns from Sweden and U.K.

1874. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Governments consideration to purchase self-propelled artillery guns from Sweden and the U.K.

(b) if so, whether Government has gone into the relative merits of different types of such guns avaliable in the world market and the prices at which they are available; and

(c) whether the agreements for the purchase of these guns is likely to include transfer of technology of the self-propelled guns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Modifications in the Defence Education

1875. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures are being taken to make suitable modifications in the defence education and training, so as to keep pace with the latest scientific and technical developments in the world; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The content and methodology of training in the Armed Forces are continuously updated to keep pace with scientific and technological advancements. Modern training-aids like audio-visuals, simulators and computers have been and are being introduced.

Imposition of cess on Research and Development Programmes

1876. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is obligatory for the public sector and private sector units to carry on research and development programmes so as to improve the quality of their products;

(b) whether there is any machinery to monitor these research and development programmes;

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's contemplation to the effect that industry should pay a cess of 0.75 per cent of the exact factory value of its output for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC